

Pursuant to requirements of the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, the following copy of the City's grant application under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program is being made available for public comment.

Under this formula grant, the City of Troy is being allocated \$33,583— an amount that must be spent over the next three years.

The accompanying narrative, in the format required by the U.S. Department of Justice, is concise and crafted in a flexible manner to allow Troy Police Department command staff to deploy resources where the greatest possible impact can be achieved.

Please direct any comments or questions to William Roehr at bill.roehr@troyny.gov or (518) 279-7171.

2012 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Program Narrative

Community Context

The City of Troy, a community of 50,129 people nestled along the bank of the Hudson River in upstate New York, is part of the Capital Region – a metropolitan area with a population of nearly one million persons. The City, though rich in its heritage and historic buildings, is still recovering from the same chronic disinvestment that has afflicted nearly all of the older industrial communities in upstate New York. Compared to the entirety of the metropolitan area, Troy is less affluent. Its relative proximity to New York City – less than three hours by car – makes it a tempting marketplace for drug dealers from New York City.

Troy Police Department

The Troy Police Department is a professionally accredited police department that routinely participates in Operation Impact, Weed and Seed, Project Safe Neighborhoods and other multi-jurisdictional task forces. Nonetheless, the Department's ability to undertake additional patrols and more intensive and directed investigations is compromised by the reality of the City's fiscal situation. Although significant progress is being made, the City of Troy is still under the aegis of a State Financial Control Board.

Description of Problem

Periodically, certain neighborhoods in Troy will experience a surge in criminal activity. Often, the activity is related to an influx of individuals from the NYC metropolitan area who are seeking a new and more lucrative drug market. Some surges are attributable to a combination of factors such as the traditional clustering of offenders in these neighborhoods, exacerbated neighborhood tensions and prolonged heat waves. These dynamics frequently manifest themselves in a higher incidence of burglaries, drug activity, aggravated assaults, robberies and a host of other violent crimes. The City's north central neighborhood has traditionally been most susceptible to surges in criminal activity, but the entirety of the Route 4 corridor – the Fourth Street/River Street axis that runs north-south through the length of the City – also experiences periodic sharp upswings in reported incidents.

Unfortunately, the Troy Police Department is fiscally constrained from deploying the necessary patrol and investigative assets needed to successfully address these surges in criminal activity. Stated conversely: additional funding can provide for the appropriate patrol, surveillance and follow-up investigative resources needed to investigate individual crimes and to interrupt criminal patterns.

Solution Proposed for JAG Funding

Experience has demonstrated that early and aggressive investigative activities are critical to bringing emergent neighborhood-focused criminal activity under control before it escalates to far more serious levels. Residents of affected neighborhoods have previously noted the remarkable positive impact of both covert and observable work by Troy Police investigators and expressed their appreciation for the efforts. Likewise, the presence of uniformed officers, walking beat patrols (particularly in conjunction with probation officers) and on bikes has a significant prophylactic effect upon crime and serves to reassure residents, business owner and visitors to the community. This application requests JAG funding to enhance and supplement (not replace) the investigative activities of the Troy Police Department when unusual/high incident crime situations arise. The JAG funding will underwrite the costs of necessary overtime to conduct investigations. Additionally, the funding will be used to augment (not replace) foot patrols.

The timing and nature of additional resources deployed through the JAG funds will correspond directly to the characteristics of emergent criminal activity in specific neighborhoods and the means to best remedy those problems. As such, additional deployment through JAG funding is likely to include:

- Additional surveillance activities
- Additional participation in coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigations
- Additional neighborhood-based special operations
- More intensive follow-up
- Coordinated cruiser, bike and foot patrols

Budget Narrative

Personnel

1 – 2 detectives (sergeants) at \$52.00 per hour (each) will be assigned, as necessary, for additional investigative duties on behalf of areas experiencing enhanced criminal activity. Deployment shifts (hours) will depend upon the nature of the investigative/surveillance assignment.

$\$52.00 \times 144 \text{ investigative hours} = \$7,488$

- Overtime rate will be used for actual additional investigative duties. The Troy Police Department will contribute supervision and other support to this initiative at its own expense.

1 - 2 Patrol Officers at \$45.29 per hour (each – OT) will be assigned, as necessary, for additional patrol duties in affected areas.

$\$45.29 \times 576.2 \text{ patrol hours} = \$26,095$

TOTAL BUDGET = \$33,583

Abstract

Applicant Name: City of Troy, New York

Project Title: Byrne JAG City of Troy, New York

Project Goals:

- To deploy adequate resources to successfully patrol high crime areas and investigate emergent criminal activity at specific locales within the City of Troy

Strategies:

Deploy additional investigative resources through JAG funding. Activities are likely to include:

- Additional surveillance activities
- Additional participation in coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigations
- Additional neighborhood-based special operations
- More intensive follow-up
- Cruiser, bike and foot patrols

Project Identifiers:

- Community Policing
- Crime Prevention
- Drug Market Intervention
- Overtime
- Place-based programs
- Surveillance